

**Amendments To the Claims**

**Claim 1 (Original):** A method of instruction comprising:

- (a) pre-designing a learning task and/or skill level for a student;
- (b) pre-designing a set of support related to the learning task or skill level;
- (c) presenting the learning task or skill level to a student;
- (d) presenting to the student support from the pre-designed set of support;
- (e) adjusting the support presented to the student based on responses to the learning task or skill level from the student.

**Claim 2 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the instruction is performed on an electronic device with a user input.

**Claim 3 (Original):** The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic device includes a visual display.

**Claim 4 (Original):** The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic device includes a speaker.

**Claim 5 (Original):** The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic device is a computer.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the student is a elementary school level student.

**Claim 7 (Previously presented):** The method of claim 6 wherein the student is a kindergarten through second grade level student.

**Claim 8 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the learning task or skill level is related to language.

**Claim 9 (Previously presented):** The method of claim 8 wherein the learning task is related to reading.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the learning task is related to reading comprehension.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the skill level is related to words and parts of words.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the learning task is related to learning spoken language.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the learning task is related to learning written language.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the learning task or skill level is a part of a curriculum.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14 wherein the curriculum relates to language.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15 wherein the curriculum relating to language includes one or more of written or spoken language.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 16 wherein the curriculum relating to language includes one or more of reading, spelling, alphabetic, phonetic awareness, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension tasks.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein the curriculum comprises one or more activities.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein an activity comprises one or more student tasks.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein a student task comprises a question.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein the student task comprises a matching task.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein the student task comprises a recognition task.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 19 wherein the student task comprises a comparison or sequential task.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the learning task or skill level has varying levels of difficulty.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24 wherein support is pre-designed for each level of difficulty of the learning task or skill level.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the set of support comprises sensory information.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 26 wherein the sensory information is presentable in audible or visual format.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 27 wherein the visual format comprises one or more of pictorial or text information.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the set of support comprises a plurality of audio-visual (AV) levels.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 29 wherein the plurality of AV levels comprises levels of differing amounts of information.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 30 wherein the differing amounts of information comprise a range between more information relating to the learning task and less information.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 31 wherein the plurality of AV levels comprise a hierarchy of decreasing levels of support.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the set of support comprises multimedia formats.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 33 wherein the multimedia formats comprise information adapted for presentation in auditory format, information adapted for presentation in pictorial format, and information adapted for presentation in text format.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the set of support comprises a plurality of support options, each support option comprising one or more multimedia formats.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 35 wherein the support options are one of information adapted for presentation in auditory format, information adapted for presentation in pictorial format, and information adapted for presentation in text format.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein the set of support for a learning task comprises a plurality of AV levels.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 36 wherein each AV level 32 wherein each option comprises an AV level.

**Claim 39 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 1 wherein each set of support for each learning task or skill level comprises a set of AV levels, the step of adjusting the support adapted to promote successful completion of the learning task or skill level by the student.

**Claim 40 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 37 wherein the step of adjusting changes the AV level over the range of AV levels.

**Claim 41 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 40 wherein the AV level is left the same or adjusted up in the range upon the student achieving a pre-determined level of performance with responses, and is adjusted down in the range or left the same if the pre-determined level of performance with responses is not met.

**Claim 42 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 41 wherein the adjusting is sequential, one AV level at a time.

**Claim 43 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 41 wherein the amount of adjusting in the range is adjustable.

**Claim 44 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 41 wherein the AV level is adjusted up the range the more successful the student's responses are, wherein the higher up the range, the less the available support.

**Claim 45 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 44 wherein the learning task is reading comprehension, the AV levels comprise audio, pictorial, and text information, and the higher up the range of AV levels comprises removing audio and/or pictorial information.

**Claim 46 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 44 wherein the learning task or skill level relates to written language, the AV levels comprise audio, pictorial, and text information, and the higher up the range of AV levels comprises removing audio information.

**Claim 47 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting is automatic.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the student responses.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 further comprising assessing the student's performance by identifying the level of support used by the student.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 47 further comprising assessing the student's performance by storing and reviewing the student's responses.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48 wherein the assessment is used to automatically set a subsequent learning task and/or skill level and/or level of support for the learning task.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48 wherein the stored responses are accessible by an instructor for evaluation.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a report from the student responses.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): An apparatus for facilitating a learning task for a student comprising:

- (a) a computer;
- (b) the computer including a display, and processor, and a user input component;
- (c) the computer including memory medium;
- (d) software operatively installed on the memory medium;
- (e) the software including a pre-designed learning task and/or skill level for a student;
- (f) a database stored on the memory medium;
- (g) the database including a pre-designed set of support and set of skills related to the learning task and/or skill level;

(f)(h) the software adapted to:

(f1)(h1) present the learning task and/or skill level to a student on the display;

(f2)(h2) present on the display to the student support from the pre-designed set of support;

(f3)(h3) adjust the support presented on the display to the student based on responses to the learning task or skill level from the student;

(g)(i) store in a database the student's responses.

Claim 55 (Original): The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the pre-designed learning task or skill level is a part of a curriculum.

Claim 56 (Original): The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the curriculum relates to language.

Claim 57 (Original): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the curriculum relates to written and/or oral language skills.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the set of support comprises various levels of audio and/or visual information.

Claim 59 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the support is adjusted to provide less audio and/or visual information upon the responses exceeding a pre-determined threshold.

Claim 60 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the support is adjusted to provide more audio and/or visual information upon the responses not meeting a pre-determined threshold.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 60 further comprising automatically adjusting the support based on an assessment of the responses.

Claim 62 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for automated instruction of students comprising:

- (a) a computerized device with a visual display;
- (b) a first database comprising audio and/or visual content adapted for display to a student;
- (c) a second database comprising responses of a student to learning tasks and/or skill levels;
- (d) an executable program that interacts with the first and second databases, the program adapted to present a learning task or skill level in association to a variable amount of audio and/or visual support content and requiring a response from the student;
- (e) the program assessing the responses in the second database and instructing which learning task or skill level and amount of support to display to the student.

(f)

Claim 63 (Withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the program decreases the amount of support displayed to the student if the responses exceed a pre-determined criteria.

Claim 64 (Currently amended): A method of instructing a student comprising:

- (a) presenting to a student a first learning activity or skill level;
- (b) assessing performance of the student in the first learning activity or skill level based on responses related to the first learning activity or skill level;
- (c) identifying the student's level of performance relative the first learning activity or skill level;
- (d) informing a second learning activity or skill level of the student's level of performance relative the first learning activity or skill level;
- (e) deciding if the second learning activity or skill level should be altered.

Claim 65 (Original): The method of claim 64 wherein the skill level comprises decoding of language.

Claim 66 (Original): A method of instructing comprising:



- (a) presenting a learning task or skill level to a student;
- (b) assessing the student's response to a task by evaluating the amount of support given the student regarding the task;
- (c) progressing or regressing the student based on monitoring the level of support needed for the student to successfully complete the learning task or skill level.